

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net

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Soooo close

It was an unusual week, with two South football games and a pair of narrow defeats - IC

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HURRICANE FLOYD: The aftermath

Oak Island strand Much progress but more work before opening

INSIDE

■ Flooding remains a problem at Boiling Spring Lakes and Bald Head Island; Southport looks to solve its long-term drainage predicament; Caswell Beach is nearly back to normal.
■ Brunswick County Health Department sets priority of assisting victims of hurricane.

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

In quicker fashion than some had thought possible, the Town of Oak Island scraped and dug and picked and cleared its way through wreckage of its beachfront this week.

While tons of sand have been scraped from Beach Drive and the process of extracting debris, sifting sand and returning it to the beachfront has begun, access to the dangerous and exposed beachfront remains restricted.

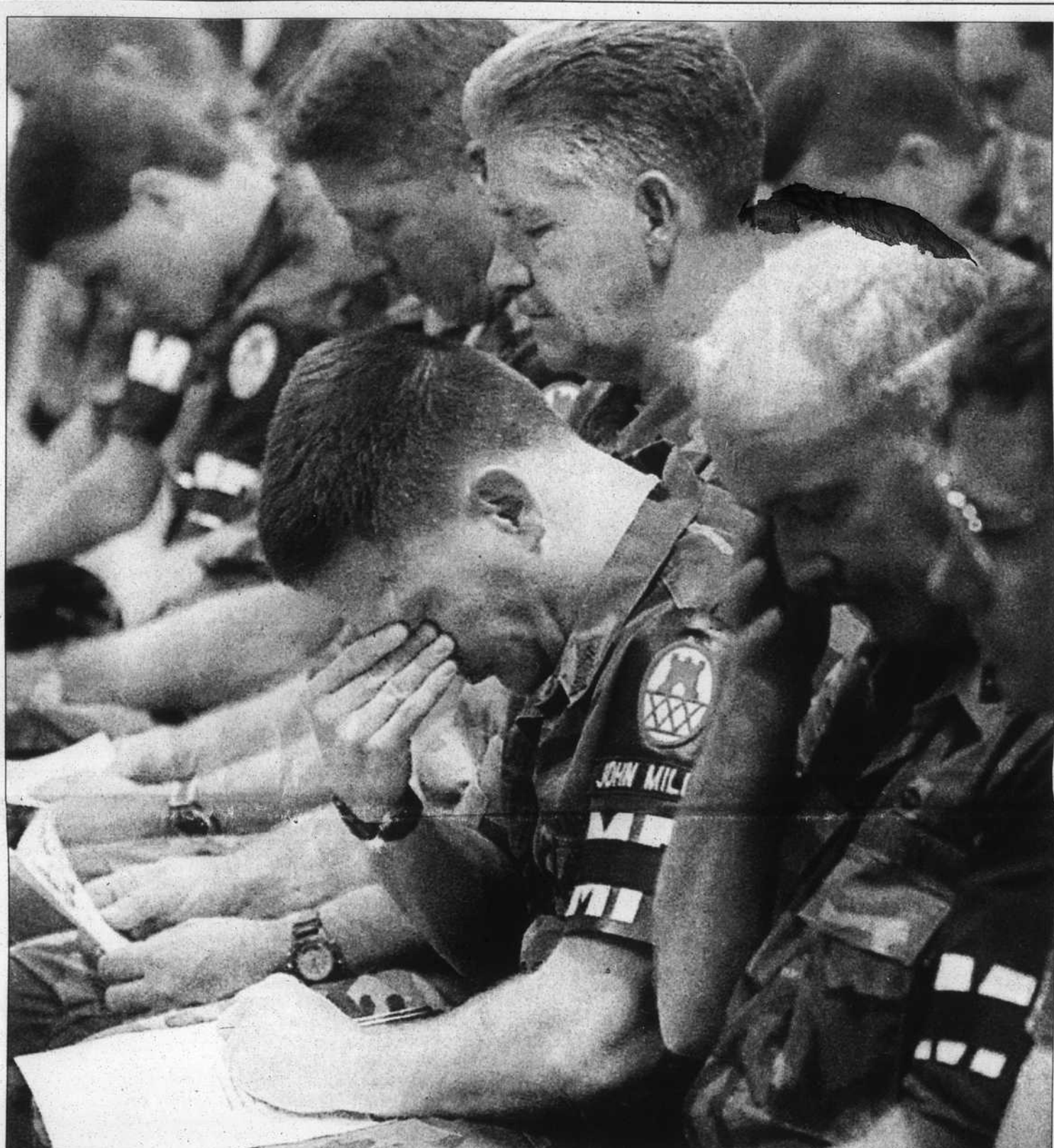
"Slowly, but surely, we are going to be opening up sections of the secured access area," Oak Island co-mayor Joan Altman said Tuesday. "The primary need now is to let Brunswick Electric restore service. We are going to work deliberately to allow folks to

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Photo by Jim Harper

Once the protection of the duneline was lost, front row homes on Beach Drive were at Hurricane Floyd's mercy.



Photos by Jim Harper

Fellow National Guardsmen mourned Leon Reece Penland Jr. as Oak Islanders joined them at Ocean View United Methodist Church on Thursday to honor him, and give thanks for deliverance and relief.

Western Brunswick Floods continue to plague county

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

Brunswick County extended its state of emergency status for another week Tuesday while residents in the Waccamaw community deal with a rising river that still has not crested.

County commissioners learned state officials will conduct aerial spraying to combat a mosquito infestation exacerbated by heavy rains from hurricanes Dennis and Floyd. As of Tuesday afternoon, no date had been set for spraying, but county public information officer Huey Marshall said residents will be

informed ahead of time to avoid coming in contact with the insecticide and to protect local beehives and pets.

"We've asked for as much notice as possible to alert our people," said Marshall.

The swollen Waccamaw River was expected to crest at 18 feet above flood stage today (Wednesday), but another flash flood warning issued early Tuesday for western and northern parts of the county only added to the severe problems residents face with the rising waters brought on by Hurricane Floyd.

At least 21 families remain forced from
See Waccamaw, page 6

The ultimate sacrifice



By Laura Kimball
Staff Writer

The Oak Island community watched with concern and sympathy as about 70 National Guard members filed into reserved seats at Ocean View United Methodist Church Thursday.

"We have become a community of friends through our common grief," the Rev. Fred Roberts said, less than 24 hours after SPC Leon Reece Penland Jr., 21, died while serving on Oak Island. While on patrol near the 800 block of Caswell Beach on the night of Wednesday, September 22, Penland's Humvee vehicle hit a washout on the beach strand and overturned. Three others, local emergency personnel Mike Gregory, Christy Snapp and Jill Ward, were badly injured.

"We are here to celebrate a life's beginning," Roberts continued. A National Guardsman, staring straight ahead, wiped tears from

See Guardsmen, page 3

Celebration of Oak Island to be welcome change

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Let's face it: Oak Islanders need a break. They need a day to reflect on community and to forget for the moment the unique challenges posed to the community in recent weeks.

Oak Islanders need a celebration of Oak Island. And, that's just what they'll get next Saturday, October 9 — Celebration of Oak Island, the acknowledgement of community life observed in Long Beach for several years as Family Fest.

Celebration of Oak Island will offer island residents a chance to come together, to meet friends, experience good food and entertainment and to reflect on all things good this community has to offer.

The name change, from Family Fest to Celebration of Oak Island, is more than window dressing. Organizers say it is reflective of the strength achieved in the uniting this year of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach as the new Town of Oak Island.

"Since our consolidation as the Town of Oak Island, we felt Family Fest had served its purpose well for the Town of Long

Beach," said coordinator Kellie Beeson of the Oak Island Recreation Department. "It is basically the same, a family unity event, but it now includes the former Yaupon Beach as part of our community."

Celebration of Oak Island events will begin at 10 a.m. at Middleton Park next Saturday with a concert by the Brunswick Concert Band. Throughout the day of family fun, celebrants will be treated to continuous entertainment by local talent and to games and competitions. Many civic and government organizations will present information booths on topics ranging from sea turtles to CPR to beach preservation.

Organizers of this first Celebration of Oak Island admit they've borrowed heavily from the Family Fest format, but some new twists have been added.

"To start with, we've tried to incorporate some of the 'Taste of Oak Island' into the celebration," Ms. Beeson said. All restaurants operating in and around Oak Island have been invited to prepare some of their most special recipes to offer as a food tasting for Celebration of Oak Island.

"The idea is not to have a meal, but to get a taste of some

See Celebration, page 19